**PETITION FEE**

Under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) & (h)

TRANSMITTAL

(Fees are subject to annual revision)

Send completed form to: **Commissioner for Patents**
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/602,621
Filing Date	June 25, 2003
First Named Inventor	Shigeto HIRAGA et al.
Art Unit	2131
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number	500.42888X00

Enclosed is a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.102(d) that requires a processing fee (37 CFR 1.17(f), (g), or (h)). Payment of \$ 130.00 is enclosed.

This form should be included with the above-mentioned petition and faxed or mailed to the Office using the appropriate Mail Stop (e.g., Mail-Stop Petition), if applicable. For transmittal of processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17(i), see form PTO/SB/17i.

Payment of Fees (small entity amounts are NOT available for the petition (fees))

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1417:
- ☐ petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) or (h) ☒ any deficiency of fees and credit of any overpayments
- Enclose a duplicative copy of this form for fee processing.
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- ☒ Payment by credit card (From PTO-2038 or equivalent enclosed). Do not provide credit card information on this form.

Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(f):**Fee \$400****Fee Code 1462**

For petitions filed under:

- § 1.53(e) - to accord a filing date.
 § 1.57(a) - to according a filing date.
 § 1.182 - for decision on a question not specifically provided for.
 § 1.183 - to suspend the rules.
 § 1.378(e) for reconsideration of decision on petition refusing to accept delayed payment of maintenance fee in an expired patent.
 § 1.741(b) - to accord a filing date to an application under §1.740 for extension of a patent term.

Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(g):**Fee \$200****Fee code 1463**

For petitions filed under:

- §1.12 - for access to an assignment record.
 §1.14 - for access to an application.
 §1.47 - for filing by other than all the inventors or a person not the inventor.
 §1.59 - for expungement of information.
 §1.103(a) - to suspend action in an application.
 §1.136(b) - for review of a request for extension of time when the provisions of section 1.136(a) are not available.
 §1.295 - for review of refusal to publish a statutory invention registration.
 §1.296 - to withdraw a request for publication of a statutory invention registration filed on or after the date the notice of intent to publish issued.
 §1.377 - for review of decision refusing to accept and record payment of a maintenance fee filed prior to expiration of a patent.
 §1.550(c) - for patent owner requests for extension of time in ex parte reexamination proceedings.
 §1.956 - for patent owner requests for extension of time in inter partes reexamination proceedings.
 § 5.12 - for expedited handling of a foreign filing license.
 § 5.15 - for changing the scope of a license.
 § 5.25 - for retroactive license.

Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(h):**Fee \$130****Fee Code 1464**

For petitions filed under:

- §1.19(g) - to request documents in a form other than that provided in this part.
 §1.84 - for accepting color drawings or photographs.
 §1.91 - for entry of a model or exhibit.
 §1.102(d) - to make an application special.
 §1.138(c) - to expressly abandon an application to avoid publication.
 §1.313 - to withdraw an application from issue.
 §1.314 - to defer issuance of a patent.

Name (Print/Type)	Frederick D. Bailey	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,282
Signature		Date	March 21, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Docket No.: 500.42888X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Shigeto HIRAGA et al.

Serial No. 10/602,621

Filed: June 25, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING A DATABASE
AND PROCESSING PROGRAM THEREFOR

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
UNDER 37 CFR §1.102(MPEP §708.02)

March 21, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to make the above-identified application special in accordance with 37 CFR §1.102(d). Pursuant to MPEP §708.02(VIII), Applicants state the following.

(A) This Petition is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(h). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payment due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

(B) All claims are directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all claims are not directed to a single invention, Applicant will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

(C) A pre-examination search has been conducted.

The search was directed towards access restricting attributes. In particular, the search was directed towards a database management method comprising the steps of: entering a database definition request including identification information for specifying a database and access attribute information is an insert-only attribute, authorizing data insertion and access to data in said database; specifying at least an attribute of data update prohibition to said database; and disabling change of said attribute after said attribute is specified.

The search of the above features was conducted in the following areas:
Class 707, subclasses 9, 100, 101, 102, 200, 203, 205,

(D) The following is a list of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims:

<u>U.S. Patent Number</u>	<u>Inventors</u>
6,397,228 B1	Lamburt et al.

<u>U.S. Patent Application Publication No.</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>
2004/0059734 A1	Smith et al.
2004/0139116 A1	Porter
2004/0250098 A1	Licis

A copy of each of these references (as well as other references uncovered during the search) is enclosed in an accompanying IDS.

(E) It is submitted that the present invention is patentable over the references for the following reasons.

It is submitted that the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the invention as claimed. In particular, the cited references, at a minimum, fail to disclose or suggest authorizing data insertion and access to data in a database, if access attribute information is an insert-only attribute, and/or specifying at least an attribute of data update prohibition to the database, and/or disabling change of the attribute after the attribute is specified. All of the independent claims recite at least one of these features or this feature, if there is only one. In particular, independent claim 1 recites if said access attribute information is an insert-only attribute, authorizing data insertion and access to data in said database; specifying at least an attribute of data update prohibition to said database; and disabling change of said attribute after said attribute is specified. Independent claim 8 recites means for, if said database definition request is a first specification of an insert-only attribute, authorizing data-insertion and data access in said database and specifying at least a data update prohibition attribute to said database. Independent claim 9 recites if said access attribute information includes an insert-only attribute, authorizing data insertion and data access in said database and specifying at least data update prohibition attribute to said database; and disabling change of said attribute after said attribute is specified.

The references considered most closely related to the claimed invention are briefly discussed below:

U.S. Patent No. 6,397,228 (Lambert et al.), assigned to Verizon Laboratories, Inc., discloses a protection or locking technique, which may be included in the database. Technique may prevent deletion or modification of a particular business listing included in the database regardless of processing classifications. Modifications, such as updating and deletion may be performed conditionally on the database (see figure 54, paragraph 45 lines 42-46).

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0058734 A1 (Smith et al.) discloses access grant and lock information 200, which may also include data that may correlate with currently granted data accesses and data access locks with respective portions of database data 154N that may be subject to currently granted data accesses and locks, and time-out periods. A value may indicate currently granted data access locks and respective times at which may expire and the time at which they have been granted. Even though this reference does not appear to discuss the disabling of a prohibition attribute, it does appear to show the setting of a prohibition attribute in respect to a database (see paragraph 30 and 31).

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0139116 A1 (Porter) discloses a method for providing data entities of a database with a time dependent value for an attribute of the entity. Entities may be provided with a valid start and end time

associated with value of the attribute. Updating, altering and deleting for the database appear to be executed using insert-only software. Non-updateable attributes may have only one value in X-time between insert and delete time (see figure 8 and paragraphs 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, and 402).

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0250098 A1 (Licis), assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, discloses a security method that may restrict the user's update access to a subset of rows within each table of the table set. A system administrator may enable the opening and closing of tables or cells within a table by setting security flags. If a user is determined not to be authorized to modify a particular data row, the system then may mark the row as restricted and not allow it to be stored in the database. Even though this reference does not appear to discuss setting of prohibition attributes upon insertion into database, it does appear to show a method of having attributes of prohibition for only certain portions in a database (see paragraphs 14, 54 and 57).

Therefore, since the references fail to disclose authorizing data insertion and access to data in a database, if access attribute information is an insert-only attribute, and/or specifying at least an attribute of data update prohibition to the database, and/or disabling change of the attribute after the attribute is specified, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable over the cited references.

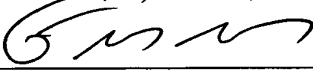
CONCLUSION

Applicants have conducted what they believe to be a reasonable search, but make no representation that "better" or more relevant prior art does not exist. The Patent Office is urged to conduct its own complete search of the prior art, and to thoroughly examine this application in view of the prior art cited herein and any other prior art that the Patent Office may locate in its own independent search. Further, while Applicants have identified in good faith certain portions of each of the references listed herein in order to provide the requisite detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references, the Patent Office should not limit its review to the identified portions but rather, is urged to review and consider the entirety of each reference, and not to rely solely on the identified portions when examining this application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request that this Petition to Make Special be granted and that the application undergo the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02 VIII.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 

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